

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 and 7-15 are amended and claim 6 is cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, herein.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15 remain independent.

Except as otherwise noted below, the claims are amended for purposes of other than patentability.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b), as anticipated by the Maniac Mansion. The rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds set forth in the prior response filed on December 15, 2005. In this regard, claim 10 requires, for example, that a locations be determined on the basis of a selected keyword. It is respectfully submitted that Maniac Mansion determines a location based upon the users movement of an arrow to a place in the animation window that the user wants its character to go (see page 11 of Maniac Mansion). In view of the traversal, it should be understood that independent claim 10 is amended for purposes other than patentability.

As amended, claim 10 recites the invention in a somewhat different way. For reasons which will be discussed in detail below, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 distinguishes over Maniac Mansion and the other prior art applied in the Official Action to which this response relates.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as obvious over Lang (“A Declarative Model of Simple Narratives”) in view of Barry (“Story Beads”) [Note that in the statement of the basis for the rejection in the last paragraph on page 3 of the Official Action, the titles are inadvertently reversed). Claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as obvious over Lang, as modified by Barry and further

in view of Gillespie. Claims 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as obvious over Lang, as modified by Barry and further in view of Andrew. Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as obvious over Lang, in view of Barry and further in view of SJC. As will be discussed further below, the rejection of claim 6 is traversed. In view of the rejections, independent claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 12 and 15 are amended to recite the invention in a somewhat different way to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art.

Rejected claim 6 requires that constituent parts of a picture book or game be combined by inserting a connecting sentence between the constituent parts.

In support of the rejection of claim 6, the Official Action states that “Regarding claim 6, Lang, as modified by Barry, discloses inserting a connection sentence between the constituent parts to cause flow (see p.6 [Lang], ‘Output Samples’; “once upon a time there lived a dog” is considered a filler sentence since it does not have an action (i.e., keyword) associated with it”.

However, it is respectfully submitted that cited output sample of Lang (and hence the combination of Lang and Barry) fails to teach or suggest inserting a connecting sentence between the picture book constituent parts.

Furthermore, Lang describes “Rules for Episodes” at page 3 thereof, which defines the rules as having four parts: (1) an initiating event, (2) an emotional response on the part of the protagonist, (3) an action response on the part of the protagonist, and (4) an outcome or state description which holds at the conclusion of the episode. Accordingly, the relied upon statements that “once upon a time there lived a dog. one day it happened that farmer evicted cat.” represent only an initiating event as defined by

Lang, which is clearly different from, and thus do not correspond to, the required connecting sentence. That is, "Output Samples" in Lang do not have any connecting sentence between picture book constituent parts, i. e. the elements of episode.

Further still, rejected claim 6 also requires that the connecting sentence is inserted between the picture book constituent parts to be combined so that a natural flow occurs therebetween. For reasons which are believed to be clear from the above discussion, the initiating event cannot cause any flow between the constituent parts, let alone a natural flow.

As amended, each of amended independent claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15 requires the inserting of a connecting sentence between the picture book constituent parts. It is respectfully submitted that this feature patentably distinguishes each of the independent claims over the applied prior art, whether taken individually or in any combination. Claim 6 is cancelled in view of the amendment of its parent claim 4.

Claims 1-5 and 7-15, as amended, also require certain other distinguishing features as will be discussed below.

Each of the amended independent claims now recites a sentence data retrieval key comprising a main character and selected keywords etc. Support for this recital can be found at page 9, lines 7-8, and page 10, lines 22-23, of the present application.

Each of the amended independent claims (except claim 15) also now recites a connecting sentence producing means for selecting a connecting sentence to be inserted between said picture book constituent parts, said connecting sentence comprising a blank, and then inserting a word associated with said sentence data retrieval key into said blank to modify said connecting sentence. Support of this recital

can be found at page 10, lines 1-26, of this application. Independent claim 15 recites selecting a connecting sentence..., which finds support in the same application text.

Each of the amended independent claims (except claim 15) additionally now recites a scenario combining means for combining said plurality of picture book constituent parts while inserting said modified connecting sentence between said picture book constituent parts to produce said picture book. Support of this recital can be found at page 9, lines 11-14, of the present application. Independent claim 15 recites combining said plurality of picture book constituent parts..., which finds support in the same application text.

It is respectfully submitted that, in addition to being distinguished by the requirement that the connecting sentence be inserted between the picture book constituent parts, each of the independent claims is also distinguished by the requirements that:

(1) The connecting sentence is must be modified with a word associated with the sentence data retrieval key or information before being inserted between the picture book constituent parts (i.e. the read sentence data and image data); and

(2) The connecting sentence must include a blank, in which a word associated with the sentence data retrieval key or information is inserted to modify the connecting sentence.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Lang, Barry nor any of the other applied references discloses such a connecting sentence. Therefore, the applied prior art necessarily fails to teach or suggest to those skilled person in the art how to implement the invention recited in each of the independent claims of the present application.

In summary, the prior art lacks at least the connecting sentence producing means and the scenario combining means of each of the independent claims, with the exception of claim 15, and also lacks at least the selecting and the combining of claim 15.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 521.41447X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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